

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02371 180929Z

15

ACTION CEQ-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, US,JA

SUBJECT: USG/GOJ MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 03511, STATE 26433, STATE 30769, STATE 037294

1. ON FEB. 13, GOJ DECIDED TO SEND ELEVEN OFFICIALS TO SUBJECT MEETING. THEIR NAMES AND TITLES GIVEN IN PARA 3. DELEGATION IS HEADED BY KANETSUGU KIDO, ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA).

2. ACCORDING TO SABURO KAWANISHI, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, EA, WHO IS ALSO AMONG DELEGATES, GOJ ALSO ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO SUBJECT MEETING AND SHARES US VIEW THAT DISCUSSION SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIVE. MINISTER KIDO, HOWEVER, IS OF OPINION THAT MEETING, FIRST TO BE HELD UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, SHOULD BE FORUM FOR "FREE DISCUSSION" ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND IN MAPPING STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT. KIDO IS THEREFORE HESITANT ABOUT MAKING COMMITMENTS IN FORM OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE MADE AT MEETING. INTERMINISTERIAL PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECT MEETING HELD SO FAR HAVE NOT TOUCHED UPON ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PROPOSED AT WASHINGTON MEETING FOR ADOPTION.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 02371 180929Z

3. NAMES AND TITLES OF GOJ DELEGATES FOLLOW:

KANETSUGU KIDO, ADMINISTRATIVE VICE-MINISTER, EA;
SABURO KAWANISHI, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION,
EA; TOSHIKI OSHIO, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT, PLANNING AND COORDINATION BUREAU, EA;
DR. MAMORU IGARASHI, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HEALTH STUDIES,
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PLANNING AND
COORDINATION BUREAU, EA; MASAHARU ISHII, PLANNING DIVISION,
WATER QUALITY BUREAU, EA; AKIRA TEZUKA, DIRECTOR, RESEARCH
AID DIVISION, SICNECE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUREAU,
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE; KAZUHIKO NAKAYAMA,
OFFICER FOR SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS BUREAU, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
CULTURE; DR. KATSUMI MEGURO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING
DIVISION, WATER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION
DEPARTMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUREAU, MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND WELFARE; TOYOJI SUMIGAMA, RESEARCH COORDINATOR
FOR PREVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, GENERAL
COORDINATION DEPARTMENT, AGENCY OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, MITI; SADA O IWATA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRAFFIC
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION,
MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT; AND
KAZUMI DEKIBA, SECOND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
DIVISION, ECONMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS.

4. THESE OFFICIALS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN DISCUSSION
ON SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS AND SUBJECTS PROPOSED BY USG,
SUCH AS POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES
CONTROL REGULATIONS, HEAVY METALS, AND STRATOSPHERIC OZONE.

5. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GOJ IS ALREADY
SOMEWHAT OVERWHELMED BY NUMBER AND DETAIL OF US AGENDA ITEMS
TO BE COVERED AT FIRST MEETING AND DOES NOT WANT TO ADD TO
CONFUSION BY PRESENTING ITS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS. IN
MOST TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS WITH USG, GOJ HANGS BACK IN
EARLY PHASES OF IMPLEMENTATION, LOOKING TO US FOR LEAD.
PART OF THIS IS DUE TO SUBSTANTIAL MISMATCH IN SIZE OF
PROGRAMS OF TWO COUNTRIES, AND PART TO LACK OF FULL
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 02371 180929Z

COMPREHENSION OF USG INTENTIONS UNTIL USG PROPOSALS AND
EXPLANATIONS CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO JAPANESE AND STUDIED
INTENSIVELY. SIZE OF GOJ DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON HAS
INCREASED MATERIALLY SINCE PLANNING FOR MEETING FIRST BEGAN,
INDICATING TO US THAT GOJ IS TRYING VERY HARD TO BE
ACCOMMODATING TO USG DESIRES AND INTERESTS, AND THAT GOJ
ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO ENVIRONMENT
AGREEMENT. DO SEND 1 MEN TO WASHINGTON TOWARD END OF

JAPANESE FISCAL YEAR IS RATHER STRIKING DEMONSTRATION OF
THIS, SINCE MOST GOJ AGENCIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MUSTER
FUNDS TO SEND EVEN ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO LOWER PRIORITY
MEETINGS.
HODGSON

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